

Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Virtual Zoom Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2020

YCSAC Member Attendance

Name	Representation	Attendance
Allison Abbondante	Camp Owner/Manager-For Profit	Absent
Dolores A. Hooban	Public	Present
Gabriel Houghton	Local Health Department	Absent
Janet Rose	Camp Leader	Present
Dr. Jed Miller	MDH	Present
Meena Suri	Camp Owner/ACA Accred.	Present
Melita R. Bell	Camp Owner/Manager - Nonprofit	Present
Kelly Campbell	National Camping Organization	Present
Maggie S. Harris	Camp Owner/Manager	Present
Neil S. Berlin	National Camping Organization	Present
Virgil Boysaw, Jr.	Local Health Department	Present

MDH Staff Present

Linda Rudie
Tylvia Koromah

Introductions

Linda called meeting to order 10:01 am

Selection of YCSAC Chair

Linda opened the floor for Council members to volunteer for the chair position. No volunteers for Chair. Neil Berlin and Kelly Campbell agreed to both co-chair this position. A document was emailed to the Council which describes the responsibilities of this position.

*Motion given by Janet Rose and motion seconded by Virgil Motion to accept new co-chairs.
Motion passed unanimously.*

Neil, the new co-chair, continued to lead the meeting.

Approval of April 2020 Minutes

Minutes from the YCSAC meeting on April 6, 2020 were reviewed.

No corrections or suggested changes to the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes from 04/06/2020 as written by Maggie Harris.

Motion seconded Virgil Boysaw.

Motion passed unanimously.

Update on Open Council Positions/Attendance

Linda reported that all positions on the Council are filled. In June 2021 four members have to renew or term will end. Neil took over the term of another person. He has reapplied for another appointment. Gabriel from Local Health Department cannot be re-appointed. The request has been submitted to fill his council position. Meena and Janet are eligible to reapply. Both stated they have reapplied for their council position.

Tylvia Koromah had no comment on Council attendance. Linda commented that there are 4 meetings and the Council member's attendance is recorded. Ethic documents are due in April.

Annual Report Letter

Neil recommended not to address the letter this meeting. He suggested that a draft be prepared and presented at one of the meeting. The letter will address the number of camp days and camps that were active/inactive. Linda will provide the information. She commented that 35% of camps operated summer 2020. Annual reports will show the number of campers, which was greatly reduced this year. The council will review final draft in February. The letter is sent to Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Office of Policy.

Neil and Kelly will start the draft and distribute it through email to Council members.

Mental Health Plan

Linda reported that the Council moved forward with the new regulation. A meeting is scheduled on 10/16 @11:00 for the staff to review the draft for any additions. Jed, Virgil and Maggie will join the meeting. Linda will provide updates as to the progress of this regulation.

Neil requested that Linda provide a review of the history of this regulation. Linda commented that the camp operators were talking about a spike of mental health incidences at camps and the lack of preparedness to appropriately address the incidents. The subcommittee explored the concerns and suggested these two recommendations.

- 1) Improve reporting on mental health issues
- 2) Improve the preparedness for camp operators to address mental issues in staff and camp populations.

The current regulation will have amended language to include this mental health regulation as part of the health program. Some camps have implemented. However the lack of regulations to provide guidance has created disparities in camps.

The draft of this regulation is the start of the process. It is approved by the Center for Healthy Homes Community Services (CHHCS) and made available for public comments. Final action, the Council will decide the effective date. They will take in consideration, the time frames camps may need to prepare for this regulation. Linda will keep Council updated.

Licensed Camp List for Public Access

Linda report that this project is next for Information Technology (IT). The department is looking to make search options available for camps to be located in the database via camps names, location and other options are being considered. The database will include active licensed camps only. CHCS will make active camps available for search. This project is anticipated to take 2 months, looking toward the first of the year.

Discussion of Pandemic Impact

Neil commented a resident camp work group has been meeting to discuss how camps can operate during this pandemic. Camps are operating under the executive order dated June 12. It was reported that the work group's first order of business was to take a look at the current executive order. Primary things to change now is to lift the ban on out of state campers and establish a process through Linda's office that enables camps to have an approval process when the intent and purpose of a portion of the order can be met through alternate means. There are 2 camps who want to operate in December. The drafted letter will be sent to the Secretary of Health, the Governor, and the Secretary of Commerce Office. The work group did have a meeting with Dr. Mitchell. Greg summarized the discussion that although Dr. Mitchell can accept the concepts that we discussed, there is no political capital to change the regulatory orders. We need to petition those who have the power to change the order - Offices of MDH and the Governor's Office.

The recommendations discussed were presented from camps all over the state. The key is the urgency. Camps need to know things now to prepare for next summer. There appears to be no urgency to look in these orders.

The request was that the Council write a letter as well to change the current order.

Dr. Miller asked what are the percentages for out state campers in a typical summer. Linda had no report on the number of out of state campers. Neil and the other Council members agreed that the Council should prepare a letter. A question was asked about including the loss of revenue. The Council addresses safety and recommend safety measures, not revenue. Neil and Kelly will create a draft and distribute to the Council for review email. The request was to have a draft letter ready by November 1.

Neil will talk to Linda as to how to contact camps and discuss further the economic impacts.

Dr. Miller requested for folks to share their thoughts regarding the mental health of campers as related to the Covid-19. Virgil commented that overdose and depression impact were discouraging. There was a great impact. He works with youth and is dealing with it on a local level. Dr. Miller commented that camps are in a very good position to be part of the solution.

New Business

Council requested email information for camps.

Adjournment

Neil requested for motion to adjourn meeting at 11:14 a.m. *Motion given by Maggie and motion seconded by Virgil. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted By,

Tylvia E. Koromah, Secretary of CHHCS
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Approved on December 3, 2020 By: Virgil Boysaw, Jr. and Allison Abbondante

Neil S. Berlin, Co-Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Kelly Campbell, Co-Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council